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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Borge KRINGELUM et al.  
Title: METHOD FOR SUPPLY OF  
STARTER CULTURES HAVING A  
CONSISTENT QUALITY  
Appl. No.: 09/813,292  
Filing Date: 03/21/2001  
Examiner: Davis, Ruth A.  
Art Unit: 1651

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Fee Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below. <u>JASON E. PAULS</u> (Printed Name) <u>Jason E. Pauls</u> (Signature) <u>April 18, 2002</u> (Date of Deposit)
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AMENDMENT

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents  
Box FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated December 18, 2001, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicant has enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, and 21 as follows.

1. (Once Amended) A method for supply of a starter culture with a consistent quality for one-step inoculation of a cultivation medium, comprising the steps of:

- (i) supplying a stock inoculum material comprising a concentrate of starter culture organism cells;
- (ii) using a subset of said stock inoculum material for direct inoculation of a cultivation medium for subsequent production of starter cultures with a consistent quality ;

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